

The Colonization Herald

AND GENERAL REGISTER.

CONDUCTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM.

VOL. I.—NEW SERIES.

PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1838.

NO. 45.

LETTERS ON PARAGUAY.

Letters on Paraguay: comprising an Account of Four Years' Residence in that Republic, and the Government of the Dictator Francia. By J. P. and W. P. Robertson. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1838. Murray.

We hasten to apprise our readers and the public of a very clever work; one in which the intelligence of the merchant lends a charm to the spirit of the traveler, and the observation of practical sense is unusually graced by the vivacity and talent which has been thought more peculiarly to belong to the professional author. Not only have our countrymen seen much with acute vision, but they have described what they saw in a manner which would do credit to any literary reputation. There are in these pages characters and scenes which the author of "Gil Blas" might have owned without a scruple; and yet the staple is as sound and accurate as if the dry details of business had been consulted in the statements. To say that we are extremely pleased with these volumes is saying little: we had no idea, previously, that South America could furnish sight to amuse us so much in its most known features, whilst many new and curious particulars were related of parts of which our knowledge was limited.

We ought to fly at once to Paraguay; but have been so much entertained by the way, that we cannot forego some notice. A portrait of Dr. Francia, and one of the best maps of the country which we have seen, though on a small scale, ushers in the Opening of the Seal, which has so long excluded this country from external notice. The authors set out with an able introductory sketch of the South American Republics; and give us a clear comprehension of their former condition, the means by which it was changed, and the results. One feature may illustrate this:—

"In Chile and Peru, where the estates are large and productive, with a slave or vassal population to farm them,—sometimes, too, with a title of nobility annexed to them,—the possession of landed property, before the revolution, was deemed an enviable privilege, and the management of it a desirable occupation. In those countries, the large landed proprietors looked down upon the merchants as on men of a distinctly inferior grade to their own in society. In Buenos Ayres and Paraguay it was otherwise. The only landed possessions considered of any value in the former place were the large estates, or cattle-farms. Many of these contained eighty and a hundred square miles of land, and some of them vastly more.* On this whole extent of territory, there was not perhaps to be found more than three or four mud huts, which served as habitations for the ten or fifteen herds who tended the cattle, with one hut of somewhat better construction for the owner of the estate. Each estate of this kind had generally upon it from five to twelve or fifteen thousand head of horned cattle; of which it is calculated that the owner may sell, or kill, yearly, one-fourth, and yet increase his stock. The proprietors of the estates, however, though men of solid property, did not, previously to the revolution, attain to much importance in the community, for the following reasons. In the first place, a limited and restricted commerce kept hides, the produce of their estates, at a very low value. An ox was seldom, before the revolution, worth more than four shillings; so that even if one of the most wealthy of them, with 15,000 head of cattle on his estate, killed, or sold, the fourth part, annually, his income did not exceed 800*l.* a year. In the second place, small as their incomes were, they did not spend the half of them. In most cases, unfortunately, a large proportion was absorbed by gambling. In town they lived in obscurity, while, in the country, like the peons, or herds, by whom they were surrounded, they had a mud hut for their dwelling,—a bed, and little more than beef, for their diet. In the third place, they were almost all natives of the country, rustic in manners, and rude in scholarship and address,—being possessed of the merest rudiments of a grammar-school education. They were without the learning, scanty as it was, of either the priest or the lawyer; and without the means, therefore, of interposing that qualification to the claims of superiority ever put forward by the haughty natives of Old Spain, and by the better educated classes of the estanciero's own countrymen. The estanciero, or landed cattle proprietor, feeling his inferiority, and taking his station in society accordingly, had his solace, and his recreation in his own solitary avocations, and in the occasional society of those of his own class, with whom he could expatiate upon fat herds of cattle,—fine years for pasture,—horses more fleet than the ostrich or the deer,—the dexterity of those who could best, from the saddle, throw their noose, or lasso, over the horns of a wild bull,—or of him who could make the nicest pair of boots from the skin stripped off the legs of a patro, or wild colt. A good, substantial, roughly finished house in town, very little furniture in it: a large, sleek, fat horse, on which to ride; a poncho, or loose amplitude of camelot stuff, with a hole in the centre of it for his head, and falling from his shoulders over his body; large silver spurs, and the head-piece of his bridle heavily overlaid with the same metal; a coarse hat fastened with black leather thongs under his chin; a tinderbox, steel, and flint, with which to light his cigar; a knife in his girdle, and a swarthy page behind him, with the unroasted ribs of a fat cow, for provision, under his saddle; constituted the most solid comfort, and met the most luxurious aspirations of the estanciero, or Buenos Ayres country gentleman. When thus equipped and provided, he could take to the plains, and see a large herd of cattle grazing in one place, and in another, hear them lowing in the distance; and when he could look round for uninterrupted miles upon rich pastures, all his own—his joy was full, his ambition satisfied; and he was willing at once to forget and to forego the tasteless enjoyments and cumbersome distinctions of artificial society. Thus lived, and thus was the country gentleman of the river Plate educated, before the revolution. He is now greatly improved in manners, fortune, and mode of life; and he is rising gradually, but surely, to that influence to which a greatly increased and increasing value of property naturally leads. His cattle, which before the revolution were worth only four shillings a-head, are now worth twenty; and for these twenty he can buy double the quantity, both of the necessities and luxuries of life (his own commodity of cattle always excepted,) which he could procure for them before. Comfort and convenience in his town residence are now as necessary to him and his family as to the other classes of the community. He mixes more freely in general society, takes a share in the affairs and offices of state, educates his children more liberally; and though the estanciero himself may still adhere to many of his primitive and favourite habits, yet many a rich estanciero's wife and daughters are to be seen driving about in handsome and modern-built carriages of their own."

"The Anchorena family is said to be possessed of four hundred square leagues (equal to twelve hundred square miles) of land, in the province of Buenos Ayres; and they derive an annual income of 20,000*l.* from the sale of their surplus cattle."

The following is a general modern view.

"To attempt to define the nature and extent of the power of the executive in these countries, would not only be difficult, but impossible. One day you find the governor shooting a man upon his own responsibility, and the next, applying to congress for leave to celebrate high mass, or increase the salary of a clerk in the government offices. A few days after this, he perhaps dissolves the congress altogether. The extent of naval and military force at the disposal of the different governments of South America varies, according to a variety of circumstances. Peru may keep under arms, in ordinary times, five or six thousand men. Chile may maintain about three or four thousand; and Buenos Ayres, four or five. Paraguay keeps about three thousand; and the east side of the river Plate, or Banda Oriental, will support a similar number. The force of Mexico is about eight thousand men, and of Colombia, six or seven. These troops are partly cavalry, partly infantry. There are large trains of artillery in the country, though not many practised artillery-men. They have abundance of arms and ammunition of all kinds; and could, in each of the provinces, in case of emergency, call into the field a large body of militia and guerilla troops, chiefly mounted. * * *

The natives (we rejoice to be told, for there is much of future hope in it) are a frank and warm-hearted people; and the blunt manners and honest principles of John Bull have always had charms for them. They commingle as if of one nation. The English have never taken any further part in the political dissensions of the country than that of affording, indiscriminately, an asylum to the chiefs and adherents of all sides, when in personal danger; and this even-handed humanity has won much upon the inhabitants at large. The English have been longest in the country; their numbers preponderate over those of other foreigners; and their trade is by far the most extensive and advantageous which the natives enjoy."

But we must not be delayed too long on the road; and though the travel from Buenos Ayres to Assumpcion (1811) is so entertaining that we must, if possible, return to it, we will now, leaving Santa Fe and Corrientes, cross the noble river Paraná, and enter Paraguay with our merchant-countryman, to whom a vessel laden with merchandise ascended the stream."

The first halt in Paraguay is very primitive and interesting:

"I crossed the Paraná (says the writer) at the Paso del Rey; slept at Curupaiti, and, early next morning, entered the village of Neembucú. Here I was received by the commandant and curate with the usual hospitality. Both became subsequently my intimate friends; and some specimens of the correspondence of the former, which we preserve, are such rare models of epistolary style, in their way, as well to merit a place in print. You shall have a translation of one or two of the commandant's letters, if we can find room for them. Neembucú is the first establishment or comandancia to which, on the line of road that I travelled, you come in Paraguay. I was now in the country, properly so called; hemmed in by the river Paraguay on one hand, and by the Paraná on the other. As I proceeded onwards to Assumpcion, just skirting the territory of the Missions, till I crossed the river Tibiquari, in lat. 26° 29'. I soon recognised a striking difference between the character of the country in which I now was, and that of any part over which I had hitherto travelled. The open Pampa was exchanged for the shady grove; the pastures, protected by the trees, and irrigated by abundant streams, were in most places beautifully green; the palm-tree was a frequent occupant of the plain; hills, and more gently sloping eminences, contrasted beautifully with the valley and the lake. Wooded from the base to the top, those hills and slopes exhibited now the stately forest-tree, and anon the less-aspiring shrub, the lime, and the orange, each bearing, at the same time, both blossom and fruit. The fig-tree spread its broad dark leaf, and offered its delicious fruit to the traveller without money and without price; while the parasite plant lent all its variety of leaf and flower to adorn the scene. Pendent from the boughs of many of the trees was to be seen, and yet more distinctly known by its fragrance, the air-plant. Squirrels leaped, and monkeys chattered among the branches; the parrot and parakeet, the pheasant, the moutib, the toucan, the humming-bird, the guacamayo or cockatoo, and innumerable others described by Azara, inhabited, in all their gaudy variety of plumage, the woods through which I rode. There is one noble bird which tenants them, that I never elsewhere saw, except on the lake or on its banks. That bird is the pato real, or royal duck, nearly the size of a goose, but of plumage rich and varied. The lakes are covered with wild fowl, the marshes with water-hens and snipes. On the pasture-grounds you have the large partridge, and on the cultivated enclosures, in great abundance, the small one, or quail. As I pursued my journey through a country so substantially favoured, and so highly adorned by nature, I was glad to meet with much more frequent traces of cultivation and industry than were to be found in the solitary tracts over which I had heretofore sped my monotonous way. Whitewashed cottages often peeped from among the trees, and around them were considerable fields of the cotton, yucca, and tobacco plants. The Indian corn and sugar-cane were also frequently to be seen in the vicinity of farm-houses of a better character than the cottages; and there was abundance of wood, and of the prickly pear. With the latter, the cultivated country, as well as the poteros or paddocks, were invariably well fenced. I was much struck by the amazing simplicity and urbanity of the inhabitants. At the first cottage at which I stopped for the night (and it was of the better class,) I asked, as I alighted, for a little

water. It was brought to me in an earthen jug by the master of the house, who stood in the most respectful attitude, with his hat in his hand, while I drank. It was in vain that I requested him to be covered: he would not listen to my remonstrance; and I saw, in the course of the evening, that his male children were all trained to a similar observance. The female ones respectfully crossed their arms over their bosoms, as they waited on either their parents or strangers while they ate and drank. * * *

"I had been struck, as I approached the house, by a singular erection immediately near it. The trunks of four palm-trees, about fifteen feet in height, were driven as stakes into the ground, at intervals which constituted a square of about twenty feet. Between each palm-tree was an intermediate post of equal height, supporting rafters which formed the frame-work of the roof. Over this were spread coarse straw mats, of Indian manufacture. The place had the appearance of a high stage, and there was connected with it a long ladder, reaching from the ground to the roof. We supped plentifully upon milk, yucca-root, honey, and a full-grown lamb, roasted entire. Immediately after supper, the numerous family of our host came up to him, and, raising their closed hands, in the attitude of prayer, said in Guaraní, 'Your blessing, my father.' The old man moved his hand, so as to describe with it the figure of a cross, and said to each of his offspring in succession, 'God bless you, my son,' or 'my daughter,' as the case might be. He had a family of nine children, of whom the oldest, a fine young woman, as fair as a European, might be twenty-two; and the youngest, a little Paraguay Gaucho, about eight. They did the same afterwards to their mother, and received from her a similar benediction. Great was my delight in seeing realized, by the children of modern days, this patriarchal homage to their parents; and not less was my surprise when, immediately afterwards, I saw them mounting, one by one, up the steep ladder to the top of the stage, and there, after unloosing their slender garments, lying down to repose for the night. Gomez told me that we were to sleep up there too, 'para evitar los mosquitos,' 'in order to avoid the mosquitos,' and so sooner had he informed me that they never rose so high as the roof of the stage, than I mounted with an alacrity not easily conceivable but by those who have been martyrs to the blistering attacks and tormenting hums of those insatiable insects. While we sat at the cottage-door, we had suffered not a little from their bites, and been annoyed by their constant and teasing buzz about our ears. *Mirabile dictu!* No sooner had I attained the enviable eminence, where now, outstretched in sound repose, lay the good man's family, than not a single mosquito or insect of any other kind was to be felt. Up came Gomez; up came the host and his wife; up came three peons; and, finally, up came the ladder. The horses wanted for the morning were fastened to stakes, and eating their pasture near the house; the cattle were in the corral, the sheep too; the cocks and hens were all at roost; the dogs lay outstretched, like so many watchmen, asleep, but, unlike them, on the alert; the doors of the house were all left open for the admission of the cool air of the night; there were no thieves abroad, but one or two of the jaguars, not bold enough to approach this family colony; and just as the half-moon was beginning to shed her faint but soft beams upon the trees, and the stars to shine forth, the whole family,—wife, children, strangers, servants, cattle, dogs, and fowls of the rural and really patriarchal Paraguay swain,—sank into repose under the canopy of heaven. The good company thus outstretched beneath the pale moon, consisted of

The Paraguayan's children, in number	2
of their father and mother	4
of Gomez, myself, servant, and postilion	4
and of peons	3
Total	13

in all, eighteen; accommodated, without the aid of either bed or bedding, on twelve yards' square of wicker-work, covered with a mat, and at an elevation of fifteen feet above the level of the ground. Only think of people sleeping thus at a gentleman's country-house in England! The first claxon of the cock was the signal for a general rubbing of eyes, and turning from one side to another. There was no folding of the arms for a little more sleep, and a little more slumber. The family-party had gone to rest at eight, and they were now to rise at five. There was no toilet preparation made at this time: that was managed at the brook five hours afterwards. Down went the ladder, down went the no-longer recumbent members of the family; and strangers too; lowering from the corral went forth the cattle, and bleating from their fold the sheep; the cocks crowed; the dogs frisked; the young women went to milk the cows, the young men to saddle the horses; and Gomez and myself, with our servant and postilion, to see our travelling equipments put in order. In one moment, a scene of the deepest repose was converted into one of the most stirring bustle and rural activity. We took our maté, a jar of warm milk, and a cigar; and, in less than an hour from the time of our waking, we were once more *en route* for Assumpcion. We first, however, bade a hearty and grateful adieu to our exemplary host. We had never seen the man before. He knew nothing of me, but that I belonged to a hostile nation that, not many years before, had invaded his country; and yet he entertained me and my suite upon principles of open-handed hospitality, which, scoring the notion of reward, were only satisfied by the giving of his own and of his children's personal and respectful attendance upon his guests. Nor was this a partial case: I found it the same throughout the country."

(To be continued.)

THE AMERICAN CADMUS.

"In the winter of 1828, a delegation of the Cherokees visited the city of Washington, in order to make a treaty with the United States, and among them was See-quah-yah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. His English name was George Guess; he was a half-breed, but had never, from his own account, spoken a single word of English up to the time of his invention, nor since. Prompted by my own curiosity, and urged by several literary friends, I applied to See-quah-yah, through the medium of two interpreters, one a half-blood, Capt. Rogers, and the other a full-blood chief, whose assumed English name was John Maw, to relate to me, as minutely as possible, the mental operations and all the facts in his discovery. He cheerfully complied with my request, and gave very deliberate and satisfactory answers to every question; and was at the same time careful to know from the interpreters if I distinctly understood his answers. No stoic could have been more grave in his demeanor than was See-quah-yah; he pondered, according to the Indian custom, for a considerable time after each question was put, before he made his reply, and often took a whiff of his calumet while reflecting on an answer. The details of the examination are too long for the closing paragraph of this lecture; but the substance of it was this: That he, See-quah-yah, was now about sixty-five years old, but could not precisely say; that in early life he was gay and a talkative; and although he never attempted to speak in council but once, yet was often

from the strength of his memory, his easy colloquial powers, and the ready command of his vernacular, story teller of the convivial party. His reputation for talents of every kind gave him some distinction when he was quite young, so long as St. Clair's defeat. In this campaign, or some one that soon followed it, a letter was found on the person of a prisoner, which was wrongly read by him to the Indians. In some of their deliberations on this subject, the question arose among them, whether this mysterious power of the *talking leaf*, was the gift of the Great Spirit to the white man, or a discovery of the white man himself? Most of his companions were of the former opinion, while he as strenuously maintained the latter. This frequently became a subject of contemplation with him afterwards, as well as many other things which he knew, or had heard, that the white man could do; but he never sat down seriously to reflect on the subject, until a swelling on his knee confined him to his cabin, and which at length made him a cripple for life, by shortening the diseased leg. Deprived of the excitement of war, and the pleasures of the chase, in the long nights of his confinement his mind was again directed to the mystery of the power of *speaking by letters*, the very name of which, of course, was not to be found in his language. From the cries of wild beasts, from the talents of the mocking bird, from the voices of his children and companions, he knew that feelings and passions were conveyed by different sounds, from one intelligent being to another. The thought struck him to try to ascertain all the sounds in the Cherokee language. His own ear was not remarkably discriminating, and he called to his aid the more acute ears of his wife and children. He found great assistance from them.

When he thought that he had distinguished all the different sounds in their language, he attempted to use pictorial signs, images of birds and beasts, to convey these sounds to others, or to mark them in his own mind. He soon dropped this method, as difficult or impossible, and tried arbitrary signs, without any regard to appearances, except such as might assist him in recollecting them, and distinguishing them from each other. At first, these signs were very numerous; and when he got so far as to think his invention nearly accomplished, he had about two hundred characters in his Alphabet. By the aid of his daughter, who seemed to enter into the genius of his labours, he reduced them, at last, to eighty-six, the number he now uses. He then set to work to make these characters more comely to the eye, and succeeded. As yet he had not the knowledge of the pen as an instrument, but made his characters on a piece of bark, with a knife or nail. At this time he sent to the Indian agent, or some trader in the nation, for paper and pen. His ink was easily made from some of the bark of the forest trees, whose colouring properties he had previously known; and after seeing the construction of the pen, he soon learned to make one; but at first he made it without a slit; this inconvenience was, however, quickly removed by his sagacity. His next difficulty was to make his invention known to his countrymen; for by this time he had become so abstracted from his tribe and their usual pursuits, that he was viewed with an eye of suspicion. His former companions passed his wigwag without entering it, and mentioned his name as one who was practising improper spells, for notoriety or mischievous purposes; and he seems to think that he should have been hardly dealt with, if his docile and unambitious disposition had not been so generally acknowledged by his tribe. At length he summoned some of the most distinguished of his nation, in order to make his communication to them—and after giving them the best explanation of his discovery that he could, stripping it of all supernatural influence, he proceeded to demonstrate to them, in good earnest, that he had made a discovery. His daughter, who was now his only pupil, was ordered to go out of hearing, while he requested his friends to name a word or sentiment, which he put down, and then she was called in and read it to them; then the father retired, and the daughter wrote; the Indians were wonder-struck, but not entirely satisfied. See-quah-yah then proposed that the tribe should select several youths from among their brightest young men, that he might communicate the mystery to them. This was at length agreed to, although there were some lurking suspicions of necromancy in the whole business. John Maw, (his Indian name I have forgotten,) a full-blood, with several others, were selected for this purpose. The tribe watched the youths for several months with anxiety; and when they offered themselves for examination, the feelings of all were wrought up to the highest pitch. The youths were separated from their master, and from each other, and watched with great care. The uninitiated directed what the master and the pupil should write to each other, and these tests were varied in such a manner, as not only to destroy their infidelity, but most firmly to fix their faith. The Indians, on this, ordered a great feast, and made See-quah-yah conspicuous at it. How nearly is man alike in every age! Pythagoras did the same on the discovery of an important principle in geometry. See-quah-yah became at once schoolmaster, professor, philosopher, and a chief. His countrymen were proud of his talents, and held him in reverence as one favoured by the Great Spirit. The inventions of early times were shrouded in mystery. See-quah-yah disdained all quackery. He did not stop here, but carried his discoveries to numbers. He of course knew nothing of the Arabic digits, nor of the power of Roman letters in the science.

The Cherokees had mental numerals to one hundred, and had words for all numbers up to that; but they had no signs or characters to assist them in enumerating, adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing. He reflected upon this until he had created their elementary principle in his mind; but he was at first obliged to make words to express his meaning, and then signs to explain it. By this process he soon had a clear conception of numbers up to a million. His great difficulty was at the threshold, to fix the powers of his signs according to their places. When this was overcome, his next step was in adding to his different numbers in order to put down the fraction of the decimal, and give the whole number to his next place. But when I knew him, he had overcome all these difficulties, and was quite a ready arithmetician in the fundamental rules. This was the result of my interview; and I can safely say, that I have seldom met a man of more shrewdness than See-quah-yah. He adhered to all the customs of his country; and when his associate chiefs on the mission assumed our costume, he was dressed in all respects like an Indian. See-quah-yah is a man of diversified talents; he passes from metaphysical and philosophical investigation to mechanical occupations, with the greatest ease. The only practical mechanics he was acquainted with, were a few bungling blacksmiths, who could make a rough tomahawk, or tinker the lock of a rifle; yet he became a white and silversmith, without any instruction, and made spurs and silver spoons with neatness and skill, to the great admiration of people of the Cherokee nation. See-quah-yah has also a great taste for painting. He mixes his colours with skill, taking all the art and science of his tribe upon the subject, he added to it many chemical experiments of his own, and some of them very successful,

and would be worth being known to our painters. For his drawings he had no model but what nature furnished, and he often copied them with astonishing faithfulness. His resemblances of the human form, it is true, are coarse, but often spirited and correct; and he gave action, and sometimes grace, to his representation of animals. He had never seen a camel hair pencil, when he made use of the hair of wild animals for his brushes. Some of his productions discover a considerable practical knowledge of perspective; but he could not have formed rules for this. The painters in the early ages were many years coming to a knowledge of this part of their art; and even now they are more successful in the art than perfect in the rules of it. The manners of the American Cadmus are the most easy, and his habits those of the most assiduous scholar, and his disposition is more lively than that of any Indian I ever saw. He understood and felt the advantages the white man had long enjoyed, of having the accumulations of every branch of knowledge, from generation to generation, by means of written language, while the red man could only commit his thoughts to uncertain tradition. He reasoned correctly, when he urged this to his friends as the cause why the red man had made so few advances in knowledge in comparison with us; and to remedy this was one of his great aims, and one which he has accomplished beyond that of any other man living, or perhaps any other who ever existed in a rude state of nature.

It perhaps may not be known that the government of the United States had a found of types cast for his alphabet; and that a newspaper, printed partly in the Cherokee language, and partly in the English, has been established at New Echota, and is characterized by decency and good sense; and thus many of the Cherokees are able to read both languages. After putting these remarks to paper, I had the pleasure of seeing the head chief of the Cherokees, who confirmed the statement of See-quah-yah, and added, that he was an Indian of the strictest veracity and sobriety. The western wilderness is not only to blossom like the rose, but there man has started up, and proved that he has not degenerated since the primitive days of Cerepe, and the romantic ages of wonderful effort and godlike renown.

FAMINE AND SLAVERY IN INDIA.

A public meeting was lately held in Dr. Wardlaw's church, at Glasgow, in connection with the "Aborigines Protection Society," for the purpose of having laid before them a statement of the condition of one hundred millions of British subjects in India, and the present imperative duty of the country in reference to that vast portion of the empire." After some prefatory remarks, Mr. George Thompson introduced Mr. Montgomery Martin, from India. He described the famine in that country. He asked:—

"Was this a new scene? No; it was a state of things which had been going on for years in India. He had himself lived on the banks of the Ganges; he had been accustomed to the labors of the dissecting room, and had witnessed the carnage of a battle field; but he was obliged to give up living on the Ganges, from the number of bodies he saw floating past him on the stream, and the sharks fighting for the carcasses."

"The Mahomedans, as he had already stated, conquered India, and possessed it for seven centuries. The Koran gave them authority to take the lives of those whom they subdued, but they found that this was not so easy to be done; and in the exercise of what they called clemency, they permitted them to live, and toil, and cultivate the soil, claiming fifty per cent. of the fruits of that toil. They found, however, that this was a most onerous thing for the country, and produced desolation and ruin. Wise in their generation, as the children of this world always are, they constructed public works, made roads, and other vast improvements, and erected reservoirs for water, so necessary in a country where the floods are periodical. When we succeeded the Mahomedans, we did not become Mahomedans in name, but we became worse than them in practice. We assumed the whole country, and a few merchants in Lenden-hall street became the proprietors of a whole continent. The fifty per cent. formerly paid in produce, was converted into fifty per cent. in money. Any merchant knew how much this tended to increase the burden, raising it to 70 or 80 instead of 50 per cent. The people then brought into cultivation waste lands, as the means by which they might be better able to pay the per centage on other lands; but it was impossible they could proceed—the very means of irrigation were placed beyond their reach, and famine after famine followed. Earl Cornwallis, a man who honored himself by the government of India, procured an Act of Parliament declaring that the land tax should be fixed. This, however, only extended to Bengal and the neighboring districts. The land tax was accordingly fixed, and though heavy, was paid by the natives taking into cultivation waste lands; but eventually the burden was found to be so great that the people were forced to give up the land entirely. Nevertheless, some good results had followed; no famine had occurred in these districts, and a few merchants in Lenden-hall street became the proprietors of a whole continent. The fifty per cent. formerly paid in produce, was converted into fifty per cent. in money. Any merchant knew how much this tended to increase the burden, raising it to 70 or 80 instead of 50 per cent. The people then brought into cultivation waste lands, as the means by which they might be better able to pay the per centage on other lands; but it was impossible they could proceed—the very means of irrigation were placed beyond their reach, and famine after famine followed. Earl Cornwallis, a man who honored himself by the government of India, procured an Act of Parliament declaring that the land tax should be fixed. This, however, only extended to Bengal and the neighboring districts. 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† Thus the provision for the poor, although a fixed sum, being 2½ per cent. on the income of every man of competent means, was left to his own distribution. Hence the fundamental stone of the Mussulman character; hence hospitality and good will between neighbours and men.

joined in one comprehensive plan, where the service of the altar, the administration of the village, the collection of taxes, were services of honor, and not of profit; and where no class or body had a place with interests at variance with those of the community. The sublimity of its devotion, the simplicity of the code, the excellence of the financial system, the freedom of its political doctrines, seemed to endow Islamism with the means at once of firing imagination and of subduing reason, of suffering for all exigencies, realizing every object for which society is constituted, and exhausting every mode of influencing men."

Some persons will inquire, on what foundation Mr. Urquhart rests his opinions? What were his opportunities for observation, and to what extent did he turn them to account? The author can best answer for himself.

"During my early travels," he says, "and engaged as I originally was in the war between Greece and Turkey, I was led to form the most unfavourable conclusions respecting the character of Eastern countries, and of the Turkish government and people in particular. It was after three years of diligent statistical inquiries, that I began to perceive that there were institutions connected with the East. From the moment that I did perceive the existence of peculiar, though still indistinct principles, an intense interest was awakened in my mind; and I commenced a collection of financial details, with a view to understanding the rules upon which they were based. Three more years, I may say, were spent in this uncertainty, and I collected and noted down the administration of two hundred and fifty towns and villages, before I was struck with the common principles that guided their administration. It was also only after one half of the time spent in the East had passed by that I began to perceive that there were certain rules and principles of social manners and customs which it was necessary to study in themselves, and the acquisition of which was a condition to useful social intercourse."

This is altogether a remarkable book, in which, interspersed with a narrative, personal adventures and description of places and people, some of them of wealth, visited by the author, are observations at once original and profound on the laws, constitution and national spirit of the Turks. One passage, in which the Englishman and the Turk are contrasted in so many particulars, both important and trivial, has already gone the round of the papers within the last few weeks. It may be taken as a kind of index of the differences between Western and Eastern views and practices, of manners, and of ethics and policy; and if it be attended to in this light, will make us the more readily believe that on which Mr. Urquhart lays some stress, viz. the uniformly false position in which travellers and other persons in Turkey and the East generally place themselves, and the consequent impossibility of understanding and describing the people and institutions of that part of the world.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN TURKEY.—We are accustomed to speak of the *imperium in imperio* of our state and municipal governments in the United States, not aware that, in what is regarded as one of the most despotic governments in the world, similar reservations and concessions are common. The Greeks, before the revolution, had immunities in this way from the Porte; and the Albanians, and the people indeed of nearly every great province of the empire, have them still. Nothing is more common, it would seem, from Mr. Urquhart's account, than an agreement between the government at Constantinople and the people of particular towns or districts, by which the latter pay a certain amount of taxes, on condition that their municipal and commercial regulations and magistracy be of their own selection. Of one of these, near the gulf of Salonica, the author thus discourses:

"Amelakia supplied industrious Germany, not by the perfection of its machinery, but by the industry of its spindle and distaff. It taught Montpellier the art of dyeing, not from experimental chairs, but because dyeing was with it a domestic and culinary operation, subject to daily observation in every kitchen; and by the simplicity and honesty, not the science of its system, it reads a lesson to commercial associations, and holds up an example of a joint stock and labour company, ably and economically and successfully administered, in which the interests of industry and capital were equally represented. Yet the system of administration on which all this is ingrafted, and the rights here enjoyed of property, proprietorship, and succession—foundations of the political structure—are common to the thousand hamlets of Thessaly and to the Ottoman Empire. Here is to be sought the root, and found the promise, of the future fruits, the germs of which exist, although they be inert in the bosom of those primeval institutions which have not yet, in the East, been extirpated by legislation, or trodden down by faction."

TEMPE.—The long famed and classic Tempe is near Amelakia.

"No scene," says Mr. Urquhart, "ever produced on me such an effect as Tempe. The reason may be, that here the genius of man is associated, not with plausible monuments, but with the indestructible grandeur of nature itself, fresh and smiling with all its varieties of life and waywardness of effects, as when the bards of old sought inspiration from its aspect, or poured forth adoration at its shrine. Here no cornice has fallen away, no tints have lost their freshness, no rhetoric its flowers: here is nothing to supply, but all to enjoy; no actors swept away to mourn for, no lost language to interpret, no effaced records to restore. Ossa is lofty as it ever was; Olympus majestic still; the plains of Larissa as wide; the waters of Peneus glide still between banks that bear the myrtle and the daphne. Thousands of years have not wasted the hues with which the morning breaks over this land of enchantment, or impaired the grandeur of its setting sun."

"It was some part, too, of the effect, to descend on Tempe from Olympus, and with men who might have been the comrades of Theseus."

SILKS OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE.—Now that public attention here at home is so alive to the making and manufacture of silk, Mr. Urquhart's remarks on the subject come in quite seasonably. His curiosity was gratified by his hostess at Polygiro showing him her gala wardrobe. The stuff of the dresses "appeared to be of cloth of silk—for the silk was untwisted, and thickly wove—it had thus the softness of wool and the brilliancy of silk. The pliancy of the stuff made the folds fall as free and graceful as those of a shawl, while the weight of the material gave them statue-like boldness and solidity." The lady had four dresses of this silk cloth, which she said answered for the four seasons of the year.

"The sleeves and the skirt were ornamented with a deep border of elaborate embroidery, generally in square figures, very complicated, and resembling the borders of Cashmere shawls; round the neck, and in front, were narrower stripes of the same. The embroidery is in silk thread; the colours are all fast and most beautiful. These dresses wash without injury to form or colour, and last for generations. The four dresses in question were of the following colours—umber brown, light blue, crimson, and yellow; the general tints of the borders varying to match. I need not add that the whole materials were of home produce, and the work domestic manufacture."

In a note, the author adds: "In washing silk, and also shawls, they do not use soap, but a yellow crumbling rock, which may be seen in the shops of almost every village."

We omit, at present, a repetition of the various personal adventures of the author, and the episodes in the history of the Greek war and Albanian insurrection, all of which give seasonable variety, amidst his graver disquisitions; but even these latter are brief, and seem to be a part of his narrative.

HABITS AND EDUCATION OF EASTERN CHILDREN.—We regret that want of room compels us to pass over with a very cursory notice and a short extract or two, the chapter on this subject. It opens thus:

"The demeanour of the youngest child towards his parents, as towards strangers, his habitual sedateness and docility, would lead a European to believe that children in the East are ruled with a rod of iron; that their spirit is broken, and the buoyancy of childhood crushed by the continual exercise of despotic paternal authority. It is just the reverse. If a man were to beat his child, there would be a general uproar in the street, and all the neighbours would run to its assistance. A little romping boy, of five years old, began to pull his father's beard and whiskers, till the old man roared with pain. He looked in a fearful rage, threatened unutterable things, but never thought of using his hands. I asked him why he had not beaten the child—'Ah!' he said, 'what clever people you Franks are!'"

"By the institutes of Menu and the code of Mahomet, the parent was obliged to place his child at school in his fourth year. Reading, writing, and a certain knowledge of religion and of laws, were considered an amount of instruction which the state was bound to see conferred on its members; and Mahomet farther imposed on the chief of every community the obligation of seeing orphans instructed in some handicraft, so as to enable them to gain their daily bread."

"The day upon which the child is delivered over to the school master, is a family festival—the relatives, friends and neighbours are invited; the ladies in the harem, the male folks in the shalamlik. The little hero of the day, though generally there are several, is paraded backwards and forwards from one assembly to the other, bedizened with finery; and kissings, blessings and presents are showered upon him. The Kourban lamb has been selected before, with the greatest regard to colour, form, beauty and sprightliness; it has been fed on the choicest dainties, tended and watched with the greatest care; it is now brought forth with pomp; the splendour of its whiteness, exalted by festoons of gaudy ribands and brilliant flowers. The sacrifice performed by the father, and the child blessed by the Imam, is delivered over to the schoolmaster."

"A man of respectable or elevated station may often be seen walking about, fondling a child in his arms, obedient to its caprices, and rendering it the services that a nurse or a menial servant would be called upon amongst us to perform. As the tradespeople or artisans return in the evening from their daily avocations, scarcely one will see without some little token of family affection in his hand—a flower—an apple—a bunch of grapes—a quince."

"In every Eastern family, the great object of respect and devotion is the mother. The children, whatever their affection for their father, never admit of a comparison between the duty they owe to the two parents; witness the familiar expression—'Pull my father's beard, but do not speak ill of my mother.'"

"This family affection, coupled as it is with dignity, forms the character of the people, and is the education of the youth. Education can never be anything, save the impressing on the young generation the stamp of the old."

But whilst thus expressing himself favourably respecting the moral and domestic education of the Turks, Mr. Urquhart does not omit to leave unsketched the dark side of the picture, namely, their intellectual education.

The author takes some pains, however, and apparently with success to expose a common error which supposes the Turks to be universally ignorant, and from their religion averse to literature and science.

"There is no nation," says Mr. David, quoted by Mr. Urquhart, "more passionately attached to literature than the Osmanlis (Turks.) Instead of the religion they profess restraining their pursuit of knowledge, as the ignorant have asserted, we find their prophet himself commanding it. 'Seek knowledge,' says he, 'were it even to China. It is permitted to the Moslems to possess all the sciences.' The mandate of the Prophet was re-echoed by the Sultan. The library founded by the conqueror of Constantinople (Mohammed II.) bears its paraphrase as an inscription. 'The study of the sciences is a divine precept for true believers.' Neither the Prophet nor the Sultan has been disobeyed. The Osmanlis have eagerly sought science, have zealously cultivated literature."

But we must desist from culling more passages from Mr. Urquhart's book. It will be a gratification to our readers to learn that the whole of it will soon be accessible to them by means of a reprint from the press of Messrs. Carey and Hart.

COKE IN FURNACES.

A friend in Farrandsville, Lycoming county, Pa., under date of the 13th inst. communicates the following important information:

DEAR SIRS,—I have an apology to offer you in not answering your favor sooner; the fact is, we have all been so anxious about our *Furnace*, that every thing else has been deemed of minor consideration. The *grand experiment* has been tried and has succeeded charmingly; diffusing general joy throughout this region, where nothing but gloom and despondency hitherto prevailed. After expending large sums of money, the "Lycoming Coal Company," have succeeded in establishing the important fact that pig metal of a superior quality can be made with their "Coke," and the introduction of the "hot blast." The fire was kindled in the furnace at 6 o'clock, Thursday morning, and at half past 10 o'clock, A. M. the blast was put on. On Friday, 6 o'clock, A. M. the first cast was made, yielding upwards of four tons of excellent metal. This morning, (Saturday) at half past 5 o'clock, the second cast was made, surpassing even our most sanguine anticipations, and producing between five and six tons of superior No. 1 grey metal; the furnace working from the start in the most beautiful style, causing no apprehension or trouble whatever.

It is due to Mr. Benjamin Perry, the furnace manager, to state that from the commencement he expressed the utmost confidence of her working well, from his knowledge of the materials, and the result has verified his prediction. She started off as gracefully as the gallant steed bounding over the race course, or as the noble ship "Pennsylvania" glided from her stocks; and may she prove as beneficial to our beloved state, as the beautiful vessel is glorious in her appellation! Literally there seemed no more trouble in starting and working her, than in kindling and keeping up a blacksmith's fire.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S OPINION OF THE MILITIA.—"If I WERE CALLED UPON TO DECLARE UPON OATH, WHETHER THE MILITIA HAVE BEEN MOST SERVICEABLE OR HURTFUL ON THE WHOLE, I SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE LATTER."—From a letter of Gen. Washington, as quoted in the life of Alexander Hamilton, p. 168.

At the meeting of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society last month in Utica, seven or eight hundred delegates were present and \$10,000 were pledged, and between four and five thousand paid down on the spot. A monthly paper was started and 13,000 copies subscribed for at the meeting.

LOVE'S LABOUR.—The Plymouth Journal gives the following description of a handkerchief worked by a lady of that town for Queen Victoria. It is of the

finest cambric, having the royal arms in the centre, and a border of flowers and foliage of the most exquisite workmanship, into which fifty different kinds of stitches have been introduced. It has been upward of eight months executing, and is valued at £50.

LYNCHING IN ENGLAND.—A most extraordinary outrage had been perpetrated at Stanfield hall, in the county of Norfolk, the seat of Isaac Jeremy, Esq., by a riotous mob headed by an individual named Preston, who claimed the estate as heir at law.

The mob turned two ladies who were residing in the house out of doors, threw the furniture from the windows, and seized what money they could find, and beat severely the magistrates and constables who attempted to restrain them. The riot act was read, but without producing the desired effect, and it was not until a body of military had surrounded the dwelling, and were about to fire upon the rioters within, that they succumbed. They were then compelled to come out one by one, and were all, to the number of sixty-three, secured and conveyed to Norwich castle for safe custody. The Norfolk Chronicle says, "except in our sister kingdom of Ireland, such an outrage would have been thought impossible in any country in Europe."

TEXAS.—A letter from Dr. A. G. Wright, dated at Lima, Texas, 21st August, published in the Little Rock Gazette, says—"There is, at this time, on the head waters of the Trinity, and west of it, various tribes of Indians and Mexican officers, prepared for battle, and may be are now committing hostilities. The Delawares are now crossing, it is believed, to join other tribes. Mexico has had her officers, since May last, in actual service, buying over the Indians both in Texas and the United States, and they have succeeded. Numbers of Cherokees have passed across Red river, and have formed a rendezvous at the Cherokee town on the Sabine. You may look for one blow to be struck that will lay waste our country from Nacogdoches to Fort Gibson, unless an army be in readiness on our frontier immediately."

At the close of the letter, he adds a note to the following effect:

"That he had just received a letter in Spanish from General Filisola, the commandant of the Mexican forces, in which he orders his officers to offer the entire country to the Indians, and those who partake in the war; and all goods, chattels, &c. taken, to be held in reserve and placed in deposit, to be equally distributed at the close of the war; that no time is to be lost in establishing posts to facilitate communications to him, to enable him to send double forces to the weakest points: to stop at nothing, to make one general rush, and conclude the war at a blow—he does not care in what way; and to reserve the families and children as hostages for the government to dispose of at the close of the war."

FRENCH CHAIRS.—Yesterday, at a large sale of French furniture by Messrs. Pells, two arm chairs (not rockers) brought \$220 each; a lounge to match, \$175; and chairs \$31. The set would foot up as follows:—

2 arm chairs,	\$220	-	-	\$440 00
1 lounge,	-	-	-	175 00
12 chairs,	\$31,	-	-	372 00
				\$987 00

The set was of mahogany, covered with uncut velvet and very richly painted. Such an event ought to inspire some bard to add another canto to Cowper's Task, bringing the subject up to the present state of affairs.

DEATH OF JOSEPH LANCASTER.—The injuries received by Mr. Lancaster a few days since, in being run down in New York by a runaway horse and chaise, we regret to learn have proved fatal. He died yesterday at his residence, aged 67 years. Mr. L. was a native of London, and belonged to the society of Friends. His distinguished services in the cause of juvenile education have filled the world through which he was doomed almost to beg his bread with his fame, and now that he is beyond the reach of human succour or sympathy we may look for the most liberal encomiums of his merit and services. Says Dr. Johnson,

"See nations slowly wise and meanly just,
To buried merit raise the tardy bust."

General Summary.

CHICAGO.—The Chicago American of the 13th ult. mentions the arrival at that port, on the previous Monday, of the steamboat Constitution, with between 300 and 400 passengers, and on Wednesday the General Wayne arrived with between 400 and 500. In addition to which, a large number of wagons, with emigrants, had passed through, on their way to the West. But few were passing to the East; among these few we notice the name of the Rev. Jason Lee, Methodist Missionary, with five Indians of the Nezperces and Flathead tribes, on their way to New York.

FRENCH EMIGRATION TO AFRICA.—A Toulon letter of the 24th September says: "The Ministerial Circular relating to the conveyance of colonists to Africa is already producing beneficial results. Alsace has sent whole families, and numerous emigrants are daily arriving from all parts of France to go over to Africa. Only one thing is wanting for the full propriety of our settlements in that country: permission for the colonists to commence working on the plan of Mitidja, and to extend their agricultural operations to Blida and Coliah."

YANKEE-ISM.—The brig William, Capt. Underwood, sailed from this port some months ago, with the machinery complete for a cotton factory, with men, women, boys and girls, to run it, bound to San Blas, at the mouth of the river Santiago, on the West coast of Mexico. News has just been received of her safe arrival. There the owner of the cargo intends to put his "notions" in operation, by way, we suppose, of extending the "American system."—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—By the College Catalogue, just published for the present academic year, it appears that the whole number of students is 998; viz. Graduates—Theological Students 19, Law Students 78, Students attending Medical Lectures 82, Resident Graduates 2. Under graduates—Seniors 63, Juniors 44, Sophomores 54, Freshmen 55, University Student 1.

Quebec has been thrown into a perfect uproar by the escape of the patriot prisoners from the "impragable" citadel of that place. All had been recaptured but Theller and Dodge, two shrewd Americans. The police were searching every nook and corner—even the Ursuline convent of nuns was entered, and a funeral procession in the streets stopped to have the coffin examined! Up to 5 P. M. Thursday, nothing was known of them.—N. Y. Star.

A NO PARTY MAN.—Alderman Wilson, citizen and weaver, has been elected Lord Mayor of London for the ensuing year. In his address of thanks he said the livery had found it a very difficult matter to pronounce what his politics were, and he hoped that at the end of the year they would have the same difficulty.

Among the passengers in the packet ship President, arrived on Thursday, from London, are the Right Hon. the Countess of Westmoreland and suite, and the Hon. Miss Ann B. Chamberlain, of England.

The N. Y. Courier and Enquirer says—"The following gentlemen were yesterday elected Directors of the 'American Exchange Bank,' the formation of which Institution under the general Banking Law has been before noticed: Nathaniel Weed, John Haggerty, W.

B. Post, David Leavitt, J. P. Phoenix, A. Loubat, Henry Young, Simeon Draper, Jr., J. Amory, Thomas C. Doremus, John Stevens, William C. Langley, Thomas Denny, Samuel T. Tisdale, Francis S. Lathrop, James H. Ray, and Daniel S. Miller, E. q's.

Major Noah's European correspondent says—"The Emperor of Austria came within an ace of being sent 'sky high,' with all his coterie, at the time of his coronation at Milan. A quantity of powder was opportunely discovered under one of the tombs of the Cathedral."

The celebrated Indian warrior *Muck-ker-ta-mesheek-ker-kerk*, or *BLACK HAWK*, died at his camp on the River Des Moines, on the 31 October, aged 73 years.

OHIO 74.—The detention of the Ohio 74 in coming round from Boston, was occasioned by constant head winds and bad weather, during which she sprung two of her yards. She has a crew of 800, almost all American, including 50 fine boys, bound apprentices to the navy, and who now receive regular naval education preparatory to their promotion to petty officers. The Ohio has provisions and water on board for four months, and will probably go to the Navy Yard to take in her guns. Great expedition has been evinced by the officers in getting her so nearly ready for sailing. She came up from below towed by two steamboats, and would have been blown off to sea, but for this invaluable craft.—N. Y. Star.

THE CASE OF MAHAN.—Mr. Hammond, Editor of the Cincinnati Gazette, a sound lawyer and a sensible man, says, under date of October 18th—

"We have taken pains to investigate the grounds upon which the prosecution against Mahan was commenced in Kentucky. The indictments were found by the Grand Jury, under the conviction that Mahan had been personally in Kentucky, engaged in assisting the black men named as abductors, to escape from their masters. Mahan avers that this is an unfounded allegation. But I understand an effort will be made to sustain the prosecution on another ground. This ground is, proof that the slaves were assisted, in Kentucky, by a person engaged for that purpose by Mahan. This mode of reaching citizens of the free states has been looked to, for some time, by the owners of slaves, as one of vital importance to their security, in slave property. It is not improbable that Mahan's may be a test case. Its importance in aiding a political revolution in Ohio, may turn out to be but a lesser influence, upon the affairs of the nation. We commend our abolition friends to look out, that a proper defence be made for him, and that Governor Shannon's attention be kept wide awake, in his behalf."

VIRGINIA FORESIGHT.—The editor of the Norfolk Beacon has revived a curious document which sets in a prominent light the wisdom of the early Legislators of the ancient dominion. Nearly two hundred years ago the Colonial Assembly foreseeing the practicability and great importance of introducing and extending the culture of the mulberry tree for the purpose of establishing silk manufactures, passed an Act having that object in view. The date of the statute is 1663.

The engineers employed to examine the route of a rail road between Chambersburg and Pittsburgh have reported that a road can be made without an inclined plane.

A bequest of ten thousand dollars from the late William E. Payne has been paid over to the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, by Edward Blake, Executor.

The Montreal Courier announces the arrival of the transport Horatio, with thirty thousand stand of arms and accoutrements; and states that the paid corps of volunteers in Quebec will be again called into service.

THE OHIO RIVER.—The Wheeling Times of the 30th ult. states that the water in the Ohio is again falling, and expresses a fear that it will put a stop to the little navigation that the river now affords.

The Pittsburgh Advocate of the 31st ult. contains the annexed paragraphs:

"We regret to say that the river has again fallen a few inches. There is now only two feet of water in the channel.

The weather is cold and unpleasant. Occasionally there is a light fall of rain, and sometimes a little snow."

PENNSYLVANIA TOLLS.—The following tolls are taken from an official statement exhibiting the amount of tolls collected on the State canals and rail roads from Oct. 31, 1837, to Oct. 20, 1838.

Whole amount of railway tolls,	302,951 99
Motive Power,	226,171 16
Canal,	410,619 77
Amount of canal and railway tolls,	939,749 92

From the New Orleans Bee, of Oct. 25.

By the will of the late Alexander Milne of our city, the whole of his immense estate, after deducting legacies to the amount of about \$200,000, is bequeathed to four asylums for destitute orphan children, viz. the Orphan Boy's Asylum of Lafayette, the Poydras Asylum for girls, and two others, to be hereafter incorporated by the Legislature, and established at Milneburgh. The property thus secured for the education of the destitute orphans of New Orleans, is estimated at near a million of dollars; much of it consists in improved real estate, that will rise in value, and in the course of time no doubt this ample provision will be doubled. Mr. Milne was a Scotchman, born at Fochambers, near Gordon Castle. He died here in the advanced age of nine-seventy years, having spent upward of fifty years of his life in our city. To his native town of Fochambers a fund of \$100,000 was bequeathed for the establishment of free schools. A number of legacies were left to his relations, varying in amount from \$100 to \$6000. A liberal maintenance was allowed also to three domestics who had served faithfully and ministered to his comfort in his old age. New Orleans is very fortunate in having two such citizens as Milne and Henderson, by whose munificent donations our posterity is provided with the means of nurture and education.

It is with great pleasure that the Directors of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Rail Road Company announce to the travelling community, that all the trains of cars passing from this city to Wilmington, Havre de Grace and Baltimore, now pass over the new bridge erected over the Schuylkill river at Gray's Ferry.

The steamboat Telegraph still continues on the line to Wilmington, at 7 o'clock, A. M.

THE NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.—A few days ago, we published the correspondence which recently passed between Sir John Harvey, the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick, and the Governor of the state of Maine, with respect to a proposed survey of the boundary line, under the authority of the latter. We have since learned from the New Brunswick papers, that this survey has actually been commenced, under the direction of Mr. Deane. The persons employed are accompanied by a party of Indians and American citizens, and were seen at Madawaska in the beginning of the month. Thence they proceeded up the Grand River, crossed the portage to the Restigouche River, and descending thence, they proceeded to the imaginary highlands, near the river St. Lawrence, where their operations commenced. The Fredericton Gazette expresses satisfaction at finding the object of this commission of survey to be nothing more than to ascertain, by actual examination, the practicability of running the boundary line, according to the construc-

tion of the treaty of Ghent; and adds, that it were to be wished, that such an exploration had long ago been made—a measure which might have divested the question of its present difficulties.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.]

FOREIGN ITEMS.

EFFECT OF SLAVE EMANCIPATION UPON THE FRENCH COLONIES.—The minister of the marine is stated by the Messenger to have received advices from Martinique, urging the necessity of sending out reinforcements to the garrison of that island, in consequence of the agitation produced by the emancipation of the blacks in the English colonies. The transport Oise, this journal adds, is to sail immediately with troops from Brest.

COLONIAL AND BEET-ROOT SUGARS IN FRANCE.—The best informed French papers state that the import duties on colonial sugar will be reduced by 20 per cent. A ministerial evening journal, however, contradicts the statement of the council of ministers having come to any determination on the subject of the colonial sugar duties, that question not having yet been submitted to them for deliberation.

BILBOA, Sept. 13.—Distracted and torn by civil convulsions from one end to the other, the state of Spain is becoming daily more afflicting. The war has no more appearance of being finished now than it had five years ago, when it commenced. The Carlists are every where doing what they please.

SUNDERLAND SHIPPING.—On a single day, Tuesday last, six large ships were launched into the Wear, on the banks of which one hundred and five sail are now building. Besides large importations of plank, &c., ready for ship building purposes, the services of 200 pairs of sawyers are found necessary to supply the demand for building materials.

An earnest desire has been expressed in many places that a day of thanksgiving for the plentiful harvest should be set apart by the proper authorities.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Robert Stopford arrived at the Dardanelles in the first week of September, in the Princess Charlotte 104, with the Rodney 92, Asia 84, Bellerophon 84, Pembroke 74, Minden 74, and Wasp brig 16, in company. He had sent the steamer Rhadamanthus ahead, with a letter to Lord Ponsonby, the English ambassador, announcing his arrival.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Commerce writes, under the date of 12th September, that a rumour was prevalent in that capital of the speedy entrance of a Russian army, consisting of two corps of fifteen thousand men, into Persia, to uphold the tottering throne of the Shah.

A great anti-tithe meeting had been held in county of Galway, Ireland, at which twenty-five thousand persons were present. The most influential and respectable men in the county presided. Great dissatisfaction was expressed at the provisions of the recently enacted tithe-law.

Two new cardinals have been appointed at Rome, Prelate Adrian Firchi, Prefect of the Palace and Major Domo of his Holiness, and Sterks, Archbishop of Mechlin.

The rail-road and steam navigation conveyance between Paris and London is now completed, attended with many comforts and scarcely any inconveniences.

Internal Improvements.

ANOTHER RAILROAD FINISHED.—The Hudson and Berkshire Railroad is to be opened on Wednesday next. This road extends from the city of Hudson on the North River, to West Stockbridge, Mass., a distance of thirty-two miles. It is one of the best finished roads in the country, and the stock is considered good. In travelling from New Lebanon a fortnight since, we were surprised to find a locomotive engine and cars on a fine rail-road twenty-four miles from Hudson. But the New-Yorkers are a go-ahead people; they drive business with a strong hand.

DANVILLE RAIL ROAD.—The Miners' Journal states that the completion of the western section of the Danville and Pottsville Rail Road has already had its effects on the coal trade. Locomotives are constantly engaged in transporting coal, and about three hundred tons are weekly shipped for the supply of the neighboring towns on the Susquehanna. The completion of the tide water canal by the first of May next, will have the effect of increasing the trade and the revenue of the Pennsylvania Canal.

We learn that the New York and Albany Rail Road Company have completed their surveys, having extended their line by Albany to Troy. The distance will be shorter than by the river, and with no grade, on the whole distance, to exceed 30 feet to the mile.

STEAMBOATS.—As the proceedings all over the country, under the U. S. law regulating steamboats, cannot be uninteresting to people engaged in trade, we have copied the following notice of what is doing in Mobile, from the Examiner.

"The inspectors of steamboats in Mobile are playing the deuce among the boilers. Nearly all of the boats which run to the interior are under condemnation; and ALL those to New Orleans are in the same predicament. It is certainly inconvenient for the present; but who can regret it when such a momentous end as the preservation of life is to be attained by it? As soon as they shall commence running, steamboat travelling will be as safe as sleeping in one's bed. The only persons likely to suffer by this provoking security are the newsmongers. There will now be no heart-rending descriptions of mangled limbs flying hither and thither through the air—no more shrieks of the dying and the scared; no more scenes of courtship enacted at sea with only a thin plank between the haven of matrimony and the deep, deep waves. No more—in short, 'Othello's occupation's gone'; and we shall have to 'get up' some new method of doing the horrible, and making our readers' hair stand on end."

The amount of stock necessary to secure the charter of the Raleigh and Columbia Rail road has already been subscribed for, and it is not doubted that this continuation of the rail road communication from the north to the south will soon be progressing towards completion. The Charleston Patriot gives many reasons in favor of a rail road from that city to Georgetown, S. C., and from thence to Wilmington, N. C., from which point a line is nearly complete to Fredericksburg, Va., by the way of Richmond. Upon the completion of these roads, the only links which will be wanting in the great chain of communication as far as Augusta, Georgia, will be between Washington and Fredericksburg, and Charleston and Wilmington.

WILMINGTON AND HALIFAX RAIL ROAD.—We are happy to learn that the Wilmington and Halifax Rail road Company have opened two sections of their Rail road, one at the northern end, of 12 miles in extent, which brings the road southwardly to Enfield, the other, of 10 miles in length, which carries it to Faison's Depot, at Goshen, completing thereby 87 miles of the Rail road, and reducing the staging to 90 miles only. We are informed that 10 miles more will be finished in November, and 10 in December next, leaving, at that time, but 60 miles of the road to be done, when the whole will be completed.

The Company are now running daily their Rail road and Stage Line from this place to Weldon, on the Roanoke, and their steamboats 3 times a week between this and Charleston.

[Wilmington Advocate.]

poetry.

From the United States Gazette.

TO —

That numerous ills in life are found,
I grant;
But not that evil is preponderant.
That youth, in galling chains is bound,
That withered age, with thorns is crown'd,
And may a saw of solemn sound,
Is cant.

Your's is a dire disease of mind,
My friend;
You shut your eyes, and that you're blind
Pretend.
The heart that is to joy inclin'd,
Seizes each bliss by heaven design'd,
Nor seeks what dangers, far behind,
Impend.

The pain you suffer, you create,
And yet,
You charge it all to cruel fate,
(The spirit?)
Abuse this sublimity state,
Call all things by a nomenclature
Ure of your own—and imprecate,
In spite.

The world I'm sure is well enough,
For me;
That nature mars her work, is stuff;
'Tis we
That raise the storm, and when it's rough,
Assume a surly air and gruff,
And every proffer'd aid rebuff,
Angry.

To fancy wrongs, and then resent,
Is rude,
We might find much that's excellent,
And good,
When now in gloomy discontent,
We choose to cavil and lament,
If we'd but take things as 'twas meant
We should.

The pangs of love, do you endure!
Pray marry—
You'll find it is a certain cure,
Why tarry?
If you're too modest for a wooer,
And Myra's heart cannot secure,
Attack the first girl you are sure
To carry.

Does wealth your grov'ling thoughts engross,
Content
You cannot buy, with glittering dross,
Repent,
Or learn too late, with keen remorse,
Content's too poor, to dread a loss,
And yet too rich, for mines to toss
A cent.

With constant cares you are oppress'd,
You say,
'Bout woes you have experienced,
Or may,
With such chimeras you may wrestle,
I, nor future heed, nor past;
'Tis quite sufficient to be bless'd
To day.

The present is a checker'd scene—
You're right,
Alternate spots of black are seen,
And white.
Then think when dark clouds intervene,
Hope soon will glance a ray between,
And all again shall be serene,
And bright.

From the New York Observer.

ON COMMON SCHOOLS.

LETTER I.

To the Rev. President Humphrey, of Amherst College.

My Dear Sir—I have lately read, with much interest, the reports of your Board of Education and their intelligent Secretary, upon schools, school-books, and school-houses. They are evidently taking hold of the subject in good earnest. We have also important documents upon the same topic from Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, combining to show that a new and unusual interest has been excited all over the country; that great principles are about to be established; and that the department of popular instruction, so long neglected or abused, is about to be placed on an elevated, dignified, and permanent basis.

A hasty examination of these documents has suggested to my mind a train of thought, which I beg to submit to your consideration. I am by no means alone in the views I entertain, and if they are false or erroneous, let them be corrected.

Massachusetts I have always regarded as taking the lead in this matter. Your schools have been sustained by the people directly, year by year, on the plan adopted by our first ancestors; a plan of which I am yet to see the *first substantial improvement*. As the Puritan State, we look to you for high standards and comprehensive views; and in the discussion of the matter in hand, I shall therefore concern myself chiefly with the documents of your Board of Education. The principles I shall examine, however, are of one and the same character all the world over.

If correctly I understand the new system in your state, it gives you a Board of Education, consisting of eight men appointed annually by the Legislature, besides the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, who are ex-officio members. To this Board (which appoints its own Secretary) are intrusted the superintendence and control of the whole machinery. Seminaries for teachers have been already endowed, and are soon to be opened, for the education of men and women to this important profession. A periodical publication is also contemplated, by which the views and measures of the Board are to be made known; and the Secretary is to traverse the State in all directions, holding county meetings, and, by all means in his power, awakening and sustaining public interest.

It is easy to perceive that such a Board will and ought to possess a commanding influence over your public schools. Being created by the people, clothed with ample powers, composed of learned and influential men from various parts of the commonwealth, with the supreme executive at its head, and a popular, active, eloquent and devoted Secretary to carry out its measures, it would be passing strange should it fail to acquire a most powerful ascendancy in, at least, your primary institutions of learning.

If you have read the act, (the provisions of which are synoptically set forth in their report) you observed, I presume, that the powers conferred upon the Board, by the terms of it, are but an inconsiderable part of what they actually possess. To make such a plan acceptable to the people, in these jealous times, it must seem to embrace very harmless duties; such as collecting and diffusing information, preparing reports and tables for the Legislature, and recommending, from time to time, such measures as are obviously calculated to improve or extend the system. This is all very well; but I need not tell you how far above and beyond all this will be the *silent and unseen influence of this Board* on every subject affecting the interests of the schools. In the employment of teachers, the preparation and introduction of books, the adoption of new principles of teaching, &c., their influence will be found to control all other influences.

Suppose, for example, the Secretary should be decidedly favourable to the *monitorial system* of instruction, which is now almost unknown in our country schools. From his minute, personal knowledge of the state of the schools, he is satisfied that this is pre-eminently the thing best adapted in every respect to remedy existing evils and supply acknowledged deficiencies. He indoctrinates the Board—the whole subject is discussed—the preliminary measures are settled. The Secretary, in his addresses at county conventions and in his correspondence with the leading men in the State, feels the public pulse, and gradually familiarizes the community with the necessity of some change, and with the advantages of his favourite system. This is all within the letter of his commission. He is expressly required to "spread over the commonwealth" "information of the most approved and successful methods of arranging the studies and conducting the education of the young, to the end that all the children who depend upon the common schools for instruction, may have the best education which these schools can impart."

By and by the subject will be broached, very cautiously, in a report of the Board to the Legislature, and the great advantages of the monitorial scheme will be merely suggested or "recommended" for grave consideration. It will not be pushed for a session or two, nor, indeed, until its novelty shall cease to excite any alarm; but at last it will be distinctly proposed, complete in all its details, for legislative sanction; and who will venture to question the wisdom or policy of a measure which has been discussed, over and over again, in a Board constituted for this very purpose, with his Excellency the Governor at its head; a Board possessed of a full knowledge of all the facts and principles in the case, giving their time and thoughts to the subject, and aided by the experience and counsel of their Secretary, the only man in the commonwealth who has nothing in the world to think of or to do but to improve the schools?

I ask, who would question the measure? And if, perchance, some doubt of its expediency should be faintly expressed, who, that ever witnessed the proceedings of a Legislature, does not know that the opposition must be very powerful, or the reasoning very cogent, to prevail against the influence of a Board of Control constituted like your Board of Education? Depend upon it, the monitorial system, good or bad, would be introduced, and would become so completely interwoven with the whole course of public instruction as not to be separated from it without a most violent and painful shock. So in regard to teachers, books, &c., it may be said, without exaggeration, that the power of such a Board must be little short of that which is ascribed to the monarch of ancient Babylon—"Whom he would he set up, whom he would he put down." It will not, of course, be felt in edicts and formal enactments; but an invisible, all-controlling influence will issue from their council-chamber, that will reach the remotest district and the lowliest school-house in the commonwealth.

So far from complaining of all this, I regard it as the vital principle of the organization. The efficiency of it requires simple original powers. These I would not withhold; but I would be careful who were intrusted with them, and would watch the exercise of them with sleepless vigilance.

The examination of the documents to which I just now referred, has suggested to my mind this interesting question: *Will the Christian religion be recognized by your Board as the basis of the system of public instruction?*

It is to a brief discussion of this single topic, that I would invite the attention of the readers of the Observer.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

GREAT NATURAL CURIOSITY.

I beg leave to notice, through the medium of your widely circulated paper, one of the most interesting natural curiosities of the west, which I have never seen described in any of the public prints of our country, and which foreigners, who have visited America, with the view of writing its history, and particularly of delineating its wild and romantic scenery, have either never seen, or, if they have, deemed it unworthy of their notice. The curiosity to which I refer is situated on the top of the Cumberland mountain, East Tennessee, and is there familiarly known by the name of the Cumberland Water-Fall. I had frequently heard it spoken of by travellers who had visited it; and their descriptions excited in me a very great desire to see it, as I conceived it to be a beautiful representation of the Falls of Niagara. I have, recently, had an opportunity of gratifying this desire; and I assure you that my most exalted preconceptions were more than realized when I had the pleasure of viewing this most interesting scene, which is distinguished alike for its beauty and its wild and awful grandeur.

This fall is within two hundred yards of the stage road crossing the Cumberland mountains. The pathway which conducts to it, passes over a gently inclined plane, on the lower margin of which meanders a small stream, which is here remarkable only for its beautifully transparent water, which flows on smoothly and gently, to the very verge of the precipice over which it falls. Immediately beyond the little rivulet there rises an abruptly steep mountain, which is clothed with a luxuriant growth of ivy and laurel, the beauty of which was greatly heightened when I saw it, by being covered with richly variegated bloom. And the noble yew trees, as if too proud to associate with the shrubby beneath, send forth their lofty shafts which almost vie with the clouds in height. How striking a contrast is there between this part of the scenery and what is soon exhibited to the eyes of the beholder! Here, every object is calculated to inspire feelings of calmness and serenity, and the distant roar of the cascade falls like melodious music on the ear, to compose and soothe the mind. But how soon is the beholder awakened from his contemplative reverie, when he finds himself on the brink of the awful precipice over which tumbles the beautiful little stream just described! He is filled with wonder and amazement, when he surveys on the one hand the stupendous cliff above, whose towering apex seems to scale the clouds; and on the other, the profound abyss beneath, into which the water falls and vanishes from the sight.

After viewing this truly grand scene for some time, with a pleasure that can be more easily conceived than described, I turned away from the spot, and, as I supposed, bid a final adieu to it; being more forcibly struck than I had ever been before, with the wondrous power and might of the great artificer of the universe. But to my great surprise, I learned from the gentleman living very near, and who met me whilst retracing my steps in my carriage, that I had as yet seen but a small part of this awfully grand scenery. He informed me that there was a way by which we could descend to the base of the precipice, on the brink of which I had just stood, where I could have a much better view of the fall of water. Wishing to gratify my excited curiosity to the utmost extent, I consented to accept him as my guide. He conducted me down a very rugged and precipitous declivity, of considerable extent, amidst crags of almost mountain height. At length we reached the foot of the precipice, and stood in full view of the whole wonderful and amazing prospect. At first, I felt almost overwhelmed by the contemplation, and spent some minutes in viewing the water merely where it falls into a lovely circular basin of stone. But language is utterly inadequate to express my emotions, when I ventured to raise my eyes to survey the lofty and spacious concave which was suspended over my head, and the precipitation of the water from its brink. You can form some faint conception of the magnificence and grandeur of this scenery, when I tell you that the great dome above, which looks like the firmament in miniature, is not less than one hundred and fifty feet in diameter, and one hundred and seventy-five feet in height, from the bottom of the basin, into which the water is received. The excavation extends so far back from the point at which the water is projected, that there is a space of fully forty feet between the base of the precipice and the basin, so that persons can

walk with ease under the arch, without being made wet by the spray, which is considerable, and which exhibits the appearance of a shower of rain. The water passes from the edge of the arch above in a mass, but, descending through the air for nearly two hundred feet, it becomes divided like large drops of rain, which present a strikingly singular appearance. In the afternoon, the beauty and interest of the whole scene are greatly heightened by the numerous brilliant rainbows which are formed by the refracting influence of the descending stream and the ascending spray.

When the stream of water is much increased by rain, it is projected fully twenty yards from the base of the precipice, and occasions a violent whirlpool in the basin, which has the effect of wearing the rocks and pieces of timber in it smooth and round.

Below the arched excavation, the precipice, which consists of solid rock, is just like a perpendicular wall of one hundred and fifty feet in height. Within ten feet of the base of this wall are to be seen several large niches which conduct into caves of different sizes and extent, which contain a great many bones, some of which are human, and supposed to have been deposited there by some of the Indian tribes.

Whilst contemplating this august scenery, my guide related to me two incidents which served to excite in my mind feelings of a very solemn and melancholy character. The first was the murder of a man by two gamblers, who had followed him from M'innville, Middle Tennessee, under the impression that he was possessed of a large amount of money. He showed me the spot where they had committed the horrid deed, it being near to the basin where they had decoyed their unsuspecting victim, under the pretence of showing him this interesting spectacle. Suffice it to say, that he was most barbarously murdered and then despoiled of all he had, and his mangled corpse was left exposed to the beasts of prey. He was, however, soon discovered and received a decent interment. The other incident was the accidental destruction of a negro man, who, having fled from his master, a trader, who was taking him to the south, and who, being pursued, at night leaped headlong, unconsciously, over the dreadful precipice to the right of the fall, fully one hundred and fifty feet, and mangled his head and body against the crags beneath. His passage from time to eternity was indeed a short one! His tomb is amidst the rocks, not far from where he fell, and contiguous to his companion in misery.

I must now conclude this feeble and humble attempt to delineate what I conceive to be one of the most interesting natural curiosities of America. I feel utterly incompetent to portray it in such a way as to enable others to form a proper conception of its beauty and grandeur. My object in making this communication is to attract attention to this most interesting scene; and to advise all those who may hereafter have an opportunity of witnessing it, to do so, as they will be most amply rewarded. Such exhibitions of the wonderful works of God, are calculated to exalt and ennoble the feelings of man, and produce in his mind the strongest convictions of the omnipotence and wisdom of his Creator.

A TRAVELLER.

We understand that there is a series of cascades on the Falling Spring Valley Mountain, about three miles from Shumate's tavern, in Greenbrier county, Virginia, well worthy of attention. The highest is said to be about one hundred and twenty feet. This cascade is scarcely known, and seldom visited by the foot of the stranger.—*Editor Enquirer.*

THE MÆLSTROM WHIRLPOOL.

Letters from a gentleman in Washington to the Hon. A. B. Woodward, Judge of Middle Florida.

This wonderful phenomenon, that has excited the wonder and astonishment of the world, I have seen. There are few of my countrymen who have had the opportunity, in consequence of the situation of it, being remote from any port of commerce. Its latitude and longitude I do not exactly recollect. It is situated between two islands, belonging to a group of the coast of Norway called the Low in staff Islands, between Drontheim (being the most northern port of Commerce) and the North Cape. Suppose the latitude to be about 69 north, but will not be certain.

I had occasion some years since, to navigate a ship from North Cape to Drontheim, nearly all the way between the islands or rocks and the main. On inquiring of my Norway pilot, about the practicability of running near the whirlpool, he told me that with a good breeze it could be approached near enough for examination without danger. I at once determined to satisfy myself. We began to near it about 10 A. M. in the month of September with a fine leading wind north-west. Two good seamen were placed at the helm, and the mate on the quarter deck, all hands at the bowsprit, between the night heads. I went on the mainmast yard, with a good glass. I had been seated but a few moments when my ship entered the dish of the whirlpool; the velocity of the water altered her course three points towards the centre, although she was going eight knots through the water. This alarmed me exceedingly; for a moment I thought that destruction was inevitable. She, however, answered her helm sweetly and we ran along the edge, the waves foaming around us in every form, while she was dancing gaily over them. The sensations I experienced are difficult to describe. Imagine to yourself an immense circle, running round a diameter of one and a half miles, the velocity increasing as it approximated towards a centre, and gradually changing its dark blue colour to white—foaming, tumbling, rushing to the vortex; very much concave, as much so as the water in a tunnel when half run out, the noise too, hissing, roaring, dashing—all pressing on the mind, at once present the most awful, grand, solemn sight, I ever experienced.

We were near it about eighteen minutes, and in sight of it about two hours. It is evidently a subterranean passage that leads—the Lord knows where. From its magnitude I should not doubt that instant destruction would be the fate of a dozen of our largest ships, were they drawn in at the same moment. The pilot says that several vessels have been sucked down, and that whales have also been destroyed. The first I think probable enough, but I rather doubt the latter.

I have thus, sir, given you a lame but true account. If hereafter I can occupy a leisure hour in detailing scenes and circumstances within my own knowledge, in the course of twenty-two years' voyaging, I shall be happy, and will be amply repaid by the consciousness that I have contributed to add one moment's pleasure, to a gentleman I so highly respect and esteem.

—Mick. Herald.

INDIAN AMAZONS.

These gardens, being chiefly intended for the resort of the ladies of the minister's family, were guarded by a company of female sepoys, of which the Nizam has a battalion, a rather uncommon circumstance of the present day; the Maharaja Runjeet Singh being, perhaps, the only native prince boasting a similar establishment. The women composing this corps wore uniforms and accoutrements closely resembling those of the sepoys, and shouldered their muskets, and went through the manual and platoon exercise with great precision. They also marched and counter-marched to the martial notes of a drum and fife; the performer on the first-named instrument being the prettiest girl amongst the whole battalion. Her warlike occupation did not appear to render her at all insensible to the claims afforded by her beauty, of which she seemed quite as sensible as the more frivolous portion of her sex could possibly be, showing it, too, by the same coquettish. These Amazons have distinguished themselves very brilliantly in action; an old officer in the Nizam's service declaring, that he had seen them return to the charge when the European force had been driven back; fortunately for British credit, the troops thus stigmatised were not our coun-

trymen, and the nation suffering this disgrace shall be nameless. No longer called upon to engage in the field, the duties of the female battalion are now confined to home service; where they are employed in guarding the zenans of the great officers of government. With the exception of the drummers before named, the ladies composing the corps were a hard-fledged, weather-beaten set, well calculated for the task of repulsion, and only interesting on account of the singular nature of their own profession.

[Asiatic Journal.]

We cull the following from the pages of Mr. Silcor's pamphlet on Duelling:

"From the time at which Francis the first of France gave the lie to the Emperor Charles the V., and offered to maintain it by a duel, the practice with the high sanction spread alarmingly, especially among the nobles and military men; when either the lie or opprobrious language was given; which barbarous fashion became the cause of many wounds and murders, and of much public and private mischief—so potent for evil is the bad example of men in high places. The practice obtained in England also, to so great an extent that in the single reign of George the III. it was estimated that there were three hundred and forty-four persons engaged in duels, sixty-nine of whom were killed, and ninety-six wounded. Many of these combats took place from slight, and all of them from insufficient reasons. And from a petition sent to the British Parliament by Mr. Joseph Hamilton, it appears, that such is the tenderness of the sensibilities of British gentlemen of honour, that Colonel Montgomery was shot in a duel about a dog; Capt. Ramsay in one about a servant; Mr. Fetherston in one about a recruit; and Sterne's father about a goose. Gen. Barry was challenged by Captain Smith for declining to take a glass of wine with him at dinner, in a steamboat, and another was compelled to fight about a pinch of snuff; a pretty fair specimen, by the way, of the causes which most commonly lead to duels; a bet, a game of hazard, a lewd woman, or some other nuisance to society, is commonly at the bottom of such affairs of honour."

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.

This boundary is so termed from the name of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon—the two gentlemen who were appointed to run unfinished lines in 1761, between Pennsylvania and Maryland, on the territories subjected to the heirs of Penn and Lord Baltimore. A temporary line had been run in 1739, but had not given satisfaction to the disputing parties, although it resulted from an agreement in 1739 between themselves. A decree had been made in 1618, by King James, delineating the boundaries between the lands given by charter to the first Lord Baltimore, and those adjudged to his majesty (afterwards to William Penn) which divided the tract of land between Delaware Bay on the other, by a line equally intersecting it, drawn from Cape Henlopen, to the 4th degree of north latitude. A decree in chancery rendered the King's decree imperative. But the situation of Henlopen became long a subject of serious, protracted, and expensive litigation, particularly after the death of Penn, in 1718 and of Lord Baltimore in 1714; till John and Richard and Thomas Penn, (who had become the sole proprietors of the American possession of their father William) and Cecilus, Lord Baltimore, grandson of Charles, and great grandson of Cecilus, the original patentee, entered into an agreement on May 10th, 1727. To this agreement a chart was appended, which ascertained the site of Cape Henlopen, and delineated a division by an east and west line, running westward from that Cape, to the exact middle of the peninsula. Lord Baltimore became dissatisfied with this agreement and endeavoured to invalidate it. Chancery suits, king's decrees and proprietary arrangements followed, which eventually produced the appointment of commissioners to run the temporary line. This was effected in 1739. But the cause in chancery being decided in 1739, new commissioners were appointed, who could not, however, agree, and the question remained open till 1761, when the line was run by Messrs. Mason & Dixon.—*Salem Gazette.*

WOMAN'S ELOQUENCE.

Woman cannot plead at the bar, or preach in the pulpit, or thunder in the Senate house. Yet hers is no trifling eloquence. Its power, though unostentatious in display, is mighty in result. In the retirement of her own family, in the circle of her friends and acquaintances, in the various intercourse of society, what charms spread around, what a zest to every other enjoyment can she impart—what encouragement can she give to virtue; and what reproofs to vice; what aid can she afford to the cause of religion—in short, what an amount of good can she accomplish, and what an immense influence exert, by her mere conversation! Is it not, then, of vast importance that her powers of conversation should be cultivated as a part of the course of her education, and not left, as they too often are, to take their whole character from the adventitious circumstances of life in which she may be placed. But you will inquire how this is to be the subject of instruction? Must it not be the result only, of a young lady's intercourse with polished and intelligent society? I think not. I would allow to such intercourse all the efficacy which it deserves, and doubtless this efficacy is great; but I would go deeper than this; I would go farther back, even to that period of life when females are not yet considered old enough to mingle in promiscuous society, and especially to bear their part in the conversation of others, much their superiors in age and intelligence. I would have the mother, to all the extent of her power, and the instructress, as a part of her course of instruction, devote themselves to this great object. This is the very way, too, in which all the knowledge that a young lady is acquiring at school may be made of practical use, for it may all be introduced into conversation, either for the entertainment or instruction of others.

TO THE FRIENDS OF SCIENCE.

I have many facts in my possession going to prove that volcanoes frequently produce violent rains, and that rains very frequently occur over and in the vicinity of large manufacturing cities in Europe, which do not extend to any great distance around. I have also been told by many persons that they have seen violent rains frequently occur on the burning of large masses of timber cut down for the purpose of clearing the land, and that these rains sometimes come on so soon as to put out the fires.

Now I am very desirous of having all possible information on this subject—and I request that all gentlemen seeing this article who know any facts connected with the subject, to communicate them to William Hamilton, Esq., Actuary of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. This knowledge will probably soon be highly useful to mankind.

JAMES P. ESPY.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.

PS. Was there any rain on the evening of the 1st of September in New Jersey, east of the great fire then raging there, or was there any rain on the coast east of that fire on that day or night?

A SUTHERLAND PATRIARCH.

Mr. Donald McKay, of Cromback, expired at Brawlin on the 4th August, in this county, at the patriarchal age of 103. The deceased served in the Revolutionary war as far back as the year 1745, the memorable one of the rebellion, and was one of those engaged in the capture of the money which had been forwarded from the continent for the use of the unfortunate Prince, Charles Stuart. The old man had a store of anecdotes relative to the history of the eventful period alluded to, as also of many remarkable individuals who then figured in the scene of action. McKay was an intimate friend of the celebrated Rod Doun, the bard of Lord Reay's country, whose poetical effusions were held by him in much estimation, and some of whose favourite songs he was in the habit of chanting until within a few days

of his death. He was a man of exceedingly sober habits, having been rarely if ever known to indulge in ardent spirits. During the latter part of his life he was employed in selling cattle and horses, and visited the Beaulieu market for this purpose so late as the year 1832.

LONGEVITY OF OUR FOREFATHERS.

No less than thirteen of the fifty-six signers of American Independence reached the age of eighty years and upwards, viz:—

Charles Carroll, of Maryland,	95
William Ellery, of Rhode Island,	93
John Adams, of Massachusetts,	91
Samuel Adams, do.	81
Robert Treat Paine, do.	93
Benjamin Franklin, do.	84
William Williams, of Connecticut,	91
William Floyd, of Long Island,	87
Thomas McKean, of Pennsylvania,	83
Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia,	83
George Wythe, do.	89
Matthew Thornton, of Ireland,	86
Francis Lewis, of South Wales,	86

Being an average of eighty-six years and two months each, and the aggregate excess of the 'time honoured thirteen' over four score is just eighty years.

AGRICULTURAL.

FRUIT TREES.

The new method of raising fruit trees by planting the scions, is a great desideratum in the art of obtaining good fruit. It has many advantages over grafting, because it is more expeditious, and requires no stock or tree. They may be planted where they are required to stand, and the labor for one day will be sufficient to plant out enough for a large orchard after the scions are obtained. The method of preparing the plant is as follows:—Take the scion as for grafting, and at any time after the 1st of February, and until the buds begin to grow considerably, and dip each end of the shoot in melted pitch, wax, or tallow, and bury it in the ground, the buds uppermost, whilst the body lies in a horizontal position, and at the depth of two or three inches. We are informed that trees obtained in this way will bear in three or four years from the time of planting. We have no doubt of the practicability of this method of raising fruit. A gentleman in this vicinity the last season, planted about twenty scions of different kinds of pears, which appear to flourish. The composition he used was melted shoemaker's wax.—*Cultivator.*

THE OSAGE ORANGE TREE.

The St. Louis (Mo.) Gazette, gives the following interesting description of this indigenous tree of Arkansas, called there bow wood, and named by Nuttall the *Maclaura aurantica*:—

"The wood has the color of the Fustic of commerce, but has a livelier yellow. It has apparently as much coloring matter as the Fustic, and is used extensively for dyeing yellow in the lower country. It is used for bows by the Indians, being very firm and elastic. It has been used here for gun stocks, and for knobs for bureaus, bearing a close resemblance to satin wood. Being allied to the Mulberry, it has been found a valuable substitute for it in feeding silk worms. It has also been highly recommended for making hedges, being covered with thorns about three-fourths of an inch in length, which render a hedge composed of it impervious to man or beast; and it would doubtless be a valuable tree for hedges on the prairies of Missouri and Illinois. The fruit, when ripe, is yellow. At this time, it resembles an unripe lemon precisely, except that the skin is more deeply serrated.

"It has, in this city, a rapid growth, some of the shoots of the present year being six or seven feet in length, and it may, we are told, be propagated by slips or cuttings."

THREE CROPS OF POTATOES FROM THE SAME ROOTS.

The following is an instance of the great productiveness of that valuable esculent, the potato:—Aaron Berry, of Longton, blacksmith, gathered, at an early period of the spring, a crop of forward kidney potatoes, which were sold in Preston market at 7d. per lb. He carefully planted the same roots, which produced a better crop in quantity than the former. He has the third time planted the very same roots, which are progressing and promising to be as fruitful as the first. They are to be seen now growing. The stems for the second and third crops never raised themselves, nevertheless they continued fresh and green in appearance.

MANUFACTURE OF BEET SUGAR.

The German improvement over the French method of making beet sugar, a patent affair in Europe, consists simply in drying the beets, which are then reduced to a powder by grinding, and changed into a decoction by adding water. The experiment has been thoroughly tried by Mr. Zachariah Wilder of this town, which resulted in complete success. Mr. W. by this process, which we understand is as simple as that of making a cup of tea from aromatic herbs, has succeeded in extracting ten per cent. of sugar from the crude beet—and he is confident that at least twelve per cent. can be obtained at another experiment. For his efforts in prosecuting his experiment to signal success, Mr. Wilder deserves the unqualified thanks of the agricultural world. The result of his labors will give an impetus to the culture of beets in Hampshire county, which cannot fail to be productive of lasting good. But to the process again. The dried powder of the beet was found to yield its saccharine immediately, as the decoction was found to be as sweet as boiled maple syrup the moment the water was added to the powder. The means for the clarification of the decoction were very simple. Animal charcoal and lime were the only agents employed. This eminently successful experiment proves the fact, that the immensely important article of sugar can be manufactured by an intelligent farmer's household, as easily as bread, pies, or cakes, can be made and baked. A rich garden spot of a quarter of an acre, can produce beets enough to make a thousand pounds of sugar; no heavy capital or incorporated company is required to carry on the business. Every individual can make a pound of Indian meal. This important fact has just been proved. Now let us look at the amount of sugar brought into Northampton last year. Why, it amounted to one hundred and seven thousand pounds, which together with molasses consumed, would cost over \$10,000. This is no inconsiderable sum to be expended by our citizens annually. A dozen resolute farmers, by their influence and labors combined can create that sum from their lands this summer in the culture of the beet. At least, so we think.—*Genesee Farmer.*

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